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TAMIL NADU ARCHIVES

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU

REVENUE DEPARTMENT

G.O. No.	1345	Press
B.P. No.		Mis.
Dated	5-4-1877	107

Not to be folded or roughly handled

Famine Relief.

No. 140. Read the following Proceedings of the Board of Revenue, dated 2nd April 1877:—

Read the following letter from W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq., Collector of North Arcot, to H. E. STOKES, Esq., Secretary to the Board of Revenue, dated Chittoor, 21st March 1877, No. 187.

THE Board are aware that the removal of silt from the bed of the Suriagunta tank at Vellore is now in progress at a very heavy outlay, and that the work affords excellent labor for a very large

Vide Proceedings, No. 703, of the 19th February last.

number of the poorest class of inhabitants in that town. For very many years the tank had gradually been silting up, and the capacity of the tank, on which the town of Vellore mainly depends for its supply of water, had been reduced to a very alarming extent. The removal of silt that is now in progress will be of incalculable benefit to the towns people and especially to the regiment, the lines of which are situated close to the western bank of the tank. A prodigious quantity of silt has been removed, and much still remains. The silt was originally carried by the laborers employed on the work through the regimental lines, and deposited along the bank of the Cusbah channel, and on the low-lying ground between the channel and the lines.

2. The enclosed copy of the Acting Sub-Collector's letter, dated 8th instant, No. 128, will show that the Officer Commanding the 14th Regiment having objected to the passing of the workmen through the lines owing to the prevalence of cholera, the silt is at present deposited in the vicinity of the lines, and that even this is now objected to by Colonel Drayner on the score of inconvenience to the lines by the accumulation of soil in that locality.

3. The Sub-Collector suggests, but very reluctantly, that, under such circumstances, the silt should be carried either to the fort ditch or to the Cusbah channel by a circuitous route skirting the lines. To fill up the fort ditch with the silt and thereby interfere with the drainage of the fort is extremely objectionable on sanitary grounds, and this measure will also involve a prodigious additional expenditure owing to the distance between the Suriagunta and the ditch.

The Sub-Collector asserts that the removal of the silt to the Cusbah channel by skirting the lines will likewise involve a large additional expenditure owing to the increased distance it will have to be carried, and there is no doubt that this will be the case. I append a sketch roughly showing the situation.

4. I am extremely reluctant to augment the expenditure which has already risen to an amount far beyond what was originally contemplated, and I am constrained to declare my opinion that the objections raised by the Commandant of the 14th Regiment are groundless. The cooly people employed in the removal of the silt are all perfectly healthy; cholera is not amongst them, and, indeed, the only cases that have occurred of late in the town of Vellore have been in the lines themselves amongst the families of the 14th Regiment. It is, therefore, impossible to say that the disease may be brought into the lines by the coolies passing backwards and forwards along the streets which lead from the Suriagunta tank to the plain where the silt is to be spread.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th April 1877.*

5. I have consulted Dr. Cornish, the Sanitary Commissioner, who has just inspected the work at the Suriagunta, and he assures me that no danger whatever is to be apprehended on the score of health by the passage of the cooly people. The silt now in course of removal, he says, is quite clean, and is free from any noxious odour. He also considers that it would be highly inadvisable to throw the silt into the fort ditch.

6. Under these circumstances, it is, I think, clear that the obstruction offered to the speedy removal of the silt by the Officer Commanding the 14th Regiment cannot be sustained on sanitary grounds, while there is no doubt that its continuance will entail an enormous extra outlay of money in the completion of the work.

7. I have, therefore, the honor to request that the Board will be pleased to address the Commander-in-Chief on the subject, drawing his attention to the matter, and requesting him to call on the Commandant of the 14th Regiment not to interfere with the passage of the laborers carrying the silt from the Suriagunta through the regimental lines to the plain near the Cusbah channel as heretofore. I may add that for many weeks the coolies passed that way without objection, and that at the request of Colonel Drayner, the soil excavated from the tank-bed was used to fill up inequalities in the site of the lines raising the level of the streets, &c.

ENCLOSURE No. 1.

From W. P. AUSTIN, Esq., Acting Sub-Collector of North Arcot, to W. S. WHITESIDE, Esq.,
Collector of North Arcot, dated Vellore, 8th March 1877, No. 128.

I HAVE the honor to forward herewith, for your perusal and instructions, the correspondence,

as noted in the margin, regarding the removal of silt excavated from Suriagunta to the fort ditch.
Commanding Officer's letter, No. 6, dated 15th January 1877, to Sub-Collector.
Sub-Collector's letter, No. 19, dated 16th January 1877, to Commanding Officer.
Commanding Officer's letter, No. 33, dated 20th February 1877, to Sub-Collector.
Sub-Collector's letter, No. 83, dated 26th February 1877, to Commanding Officer.
Commanding Officer's letter, No. 46, dated 26th February 1877, to Sub-Collector.
The Civil Surgeon's letter, No. 223, dated 28th February 1877, to Sub-Collector.
The Municipal Overseer's docket, dated 2nd March 1877, to Sub-Collector.

2. From these papers you will observe that the silt from the Suriagunta formerly used to be removed by the coolies through the regimental lines to Cusbah channel bund, &c., but the Officer Commanding the 14th Regiment having objected to the passing of the coolies through the lines owing to the prevalence of cholera, the silt is now deposited in the vicinity of the lines. Now, Colonel Drayner suggests the removal of the silt to the fort ditch to prevent inconvenience by the accumulation of a large quantity before coolies can be permitted to make a thoroughfare through the lines. Dr. Fox also supports this suggestion.

3. I have no objection to the removal of silt as suggested above, provided you are prepared to obtain the necessary sanction to fill up the whole ditch and to make a provision for a drainage of the fort, which works will no doubt cost a large outlay. If not, the removal of the silt to the ditch and filling thereby a small portion of it will only tend to enhance the present unhealthy state of the trench.

4. The only other way of disposing the silt is to remove the same to the Cusbah channel by skirting the lines. Then, the question is to obtain sanction for incurring an additional expenditure for the Suriagunta work. If you are inclined to apply to the Board for sanction, I shall send an estimate for the same after hearing from you.

5. I may, however, observe that the fact of our coolies working from morning to evening every day in the Suriagunta shows that they are healthy. By allowing such people to pass through the lines, I do not see that cholera in the lines is likely to be increased.

*Proceedings of the Madras Government, Revenue Department,
5th April 1877.*

SUBMITTED for the orders of Government with request that steps may be taken to procure the withdrawal of the objection to the passage of coolies carrying silt through the regimental lines. The testimony of the Sanitary Commissioner as to the harmlessness of the operation seems to the Board conclusive.

2. The Collector's attention is drawn to the fact that his letter, dated 21st March, was not despatched till the 28th.

(A true Copy and Extract.)

(Signed) H. E. STOKES,
Secretary.

No. 141. ORDER THEREON, 5th April 1877, No. 1,345.

Miscellaneous.

HIS GRACE the Governor in Council considers that the removal of the large accumulation of silt on the edge of the Suriagunta tank and between it and the Native Infantry Lines is necessary, and accordingly directs its immediate removal to the low ground between the lines and the Cusbah channel. In order to remove it, the laborers employed on the work must pass through the lines, and the Collector will, therefore, see that special attention is paid to cleaning up the streets between the rows of huts every evening after the work is over, and to the prevention of the coolies straggling about in the lines while the work is in progress.

(True Extract.)

(Signed) J. H. GARSTIN,
Additional Secretary to Government.

To the Board of Revenue.
" the Collector of North Arcot.
" the Military Department.
" the Financial Department.
" the Public Works Department.

Exd. F. R. Bantleman.

1345/2

I suggest that these papers might be sent for my remarks as I had just inspected the place and occupy for prompt decision is necessary

between the Larkah channel and the river is low uneven ground - which will be raised with much advantage -

This was the original arrangement - after some time sickness appeared in the river - and the Hon Comd'r and Medical Officer considered the papers of members of Coolies living the streets in close proximity to the river objectionable as likely to impart disease -

It seems to me that the arrangement made by his grace the premier in personal communication with the Commanding Officer & Medical Officer of the Regt who met the objection which caused the late Colonel Drayton to object to the Coolies passing through the lines of the Regt -

I would urge that according to laying stress upon the requirement to prevent straggling & the clearing up of the roads used, at the end of each day's work - both these points are essential for the maintenance of good order & cleanliness in the lines - filling up of the holes & the dirt holes, I cannot help expressing the opinion that the

Govt. of 1877
REVENUE.
THE BOARD OF REVENUE.
Dated April 24th.
O.O. No. 140140.
APRIL
No. 140140.
FAMINE RELIEF, No. 902.
Supt. to the Subordinate Tank, North Area District. - Directing the immediate removal of the large accumulation of - to the low ground between the lines and the Canal channel, and requesting the Collector to see that special attention is paid to clearing up the drains between the rows of huts every evening after the work is over, and to the prevention of the coolies straggling about in the lines while the work is in progress.

to spread disease which
existed - & causing
a difficulty in cleaning
the streets -

The passage was
interdicted - and during
the uncertainty a mass
of silt - many feet high
has been accumulated
from out the tank upon
the edge next the river -
seriously stopping the
current of air - & if
rain falls much of it
will be washed back to
the tank & much - with
the working will be
carried down the river
The work having accord

simple fact of such a
measure being possible
under the order of the
Civil Authority, shows
how wrong it is that one
of the strongest points in the
Merchandise should have
been taken away from the
control of the Military &
made over to the Civil
Authority. This certainly a
happy circumstance that
H. & the Government was able
to put a timely veto against
a measure in every way
so unwise.

At another time I propose
addressing forth in the subjects
of the Yellow fever & other tropical
diseases.

5th Dec
77.

W.

at this point - it seems
to me essential that
the accumulated
mass should be promptly
removed - and that
under proper regulation
no harm to the troops
could accrue -

I suggested the San:
Off.^r & Med. Off.^r &
the Government to meet
the question which they did
and after consideration
examination of the plan
and explanation by
Municipal Eng.
The San. Office agreed that
it was quite desirable the
work should be completed as

quicker as possible -
that provided the
Office in charge of relief
works. told off a
sufficient number of
men to clear up the
streets each evening -
from mud & droppings -
& retained a manly
or other person in each
street for the time in
the & prevent loitering or
stopping - there would
be no objection to the
work being carried out as
before - and the Indian
Office concurred - and
the Genl. Office authorized
me to state his consent to
the Collector - H. H. H.

1345
However appeared that
the matter had been
reported to the Collector &
130 of New York Commission
& I thought required for
to obtain the papers.

The matter is urgent
- probably the Genl.
will be good enough
to sanction the necessary
made of me in New
York.

The proposal to fill in
the Fort-ditch is simply
unexpedient - and no
more useful work could be
found should employment be
needed when the Tank is
finished than cleaning
instead of filling the

1845
7

Rem.

Colonel Richard
being requested and
to send the enclosed
papers to the place
the former as soon
as possible I forward
them at once having
only just received them.
They are probably
lying on my table all
yesterday as they were
despatched by the Post
18th on the 2nd.

4/4/11 J. H. P.

FI 2109
 GA 5th April 1877 No 13

No. 128

North Arcot
 Sub Collector's Office
 Before 8th March 1877.

From

W. P. Austin Esquire
 Ag. Sub Collector of District

To

W. S. Whiteside Esq
 Collector of N. Arcot.

Sir,

I have the honor to forward
 herewith for your perusal and
 instructions the correspondence as noted
 in the margin regarding the removal

of silt excavated from
 Commanding Officer's letter No. 64/15 Jan'y 77 to Sub Collector
 Sub Collector's letter No. 19. d/16-1-77
 Commanding Officer's letter No. 33 d/20-2-77
 Sub Collector's letter No. 83 d/20-2-77
 C. Officers letter No. 46 d/26-2-77
 The Civil Surgeon's letter No. 228 d/28-2-77
 The Municipal Overseer's docket d/2nd March 77
 Sub Collector

Suriyagunta to the Fort
 ditch.
 2. From these papers
 you will observe
 that the silt from
 the Suriyagunta
 formerly used to be
 removed by the

Coolies through the regimental lines
 to Casta Channel bank &c. but the
 Officer commanding the 14th Regiment

having objected to the passing
of the coolies through the lines owing
to the prevalence of cholera, the silt is
now deposited in the vicinity of the
lines. Now Colonel Draynor suggests
the removal of the silt to the Fort
ditch to prevent inconvenience by
the accumulation of a large quantity
before coolies can be permitted to
make a thorough face through
the lines. Doctor Fox also supports
this suggestion.

3. I have no objection to the removal
of silt as suggested above, provided
you are prepared to obtain the
necessary sanction to fill up the
whole ditch and to make a provision
for a drainage of the Fort which work
will no doubt cost a large outlay.
If not the removal of the silt to
the ditch and filling thereby a
small portion of it will only tend
to enhance the present unhealthy
state of the trench.

6
1345
4. The only other way of disposing the
silt is to remove the silt to the Hasba
Channel by skirting the lines. Then the
question is to obtain sanction for
incurring an additional expenditure
for the Surigapunta work. If you are
inclined to apply to the Board for
Sanction I shall send an estimate
for the same after hearing from you.

5. I may however observe that the
fact of our coolies working from morn-
ing to evening every day in the Surigapunta
shows that they are healthy. By allowing
such people to pass through the lines
I do not see that cholera in the lines
is likely to be increased.

Have recd
of W. P. Austin
ag. Sat (cont.)
(True Copy)
of W. S. Whiteside
Collector

(True Copy)

Johnston

Secretary

Revenue Department
 Proceedings of the Board of Revenue

Dated 2nd April 1877

Read the following

Board's G.O. No. 3328. 1st 1877.

From H. J. Whiteside Esqre
 Collector of North Arcot.

To H. C. Stokes Esqre
 Secretary to the Board of Revenue
 Madras.

Sir,

The Board are aware that
 Vide P.O. No. the removal of silt from the bed
 703 of the 19th
 February last. of the Suriagunta tank at Vellore
 is now in progress at a very heavy
 out-lay, and that the work affords
 excellent labor for a very large
 number of the poorest class of inhabitants
 in that town. For very many years
 the tank had gradually been silting
 up.

Enclosure in

128 No. of 2nd April 1877.

1877, order of the day.

4th April 1877.

128 No. of 2nd April 1877.

128 No. of 2nd April 1877.

up, and the capacity of the tank, on which the town of Kellooer mainly depends for its supply of water, had been reduced to a very alarming extent. The removal of silt that is now in progress will be of incalculable benefit to the town people and especially to the Regiment; the Lines of which are situated close to the western bank of the Tank. A prodigious quantity of silt has been removed and much still remains. The silt was originally carried by the laborers employed on the work through the Regimental Lines and deposited along the bank of the Cusbah Channel and on the low lying ground between the Channel and the Lines.

Lines. 1345/10
2. The enclosed copy of the Ag. Subcollector's letter dated 8th Instant No. 128 will show that the officer Commanding the 14th Regiment having objected to the passing of the workmen through the lines owing to the prevalence of cholera the silt is at present deposited in the vicinity of the Lines and that even this is now objected to by Colonel Droguer on the score of inconvenience to the Lines by the accumulation of soil in that locality.

3. The Subcollector suggests, but very reluctantly that, under such circumstances, the silt should be carried either to the Fort ditch

or to the Cusback Channel by a
circuitous route skirting the Lines.
To fill up the Fort ditch with the silt
and thereby interfere with the drain-
age of the Fort is extremely ob-
jectionable on sanitary grounds,
and this measure will also involve
a prodigious additional expenditure
owing to the distance between
the Suriagunta and the ditch.

The Sub-Collector asserts
that the removal of the silt to the
Cusback Channel by skirting the
Lines will likewise involve a
large additional expenditure owing to
the increased distance it will have
to be carried, and there is no doubt
that this will be the case. I append
a sketch roughly shewing the situation.

1303
4. I am extremely reluctant
to acquiesce in the expenditure which
has already risen to an amount
far beyond what was originally
contemplated and I am constrained
to declare my opinion that the ob-
jections raised by the Commandant
of the 14th Regiment are groundless.
The cooly people employed in the
removal of the silt are all perfectly
healthy. Cholera is not amongst
them, and indeed the only cases that
have occurred of late in the town
of Vellore have been in the Lines
themselves amongst the families
of the 14th Regiment. It is therefore
impossible to say that the disease
may be brought into the Lines by the
coolies passing back wards and for-
wards along the streets which lead
from the Suriagunta Tank to the
plain, where the silt is to be spread.
5. I have consulted Dr. Cornish,
the Sanitary Commissioner, who
has just inspected the work at
the

the Supiaquinta, and he assures me that no danger whatsoever is to be apprehended on the score of health by the passage of the cooly people. The silt now in course of removal, he says, is quite clean and is free from any noxious odour. He also considers that it would be highly inadvisable to throw the silt into the Fort ditch.

6. Under these circumstances it is, I think clear that the objection offered to the speedy removal of the silt by the Officer Commanding the 14th Regiment cannot be sustained on sanitary grounds, while there is no doubt that its continuance will entail an enormous extra outlay of money in the completion of the work.

7. I have therefore the honor to request that the Board will be

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be pleased to address the Commissioner-in-chief on the subject drawing his attention to the main, & requesting him to call on the Commandant of the 14th Regt. not to interfere with the passage of the coolies carrying the silt from the Supiaquinta through the Regimental lines to the plain near the Cusabak Channel as heretofore. I may add that for many weeks the coolies passed that way without objection, & that at the request of Col. Drogues, the soil excavated from the tank bed was used to fill up inequalities in the side of the dunes raising the level of the streets &c.

N. Arch. Collins Officer
Chelton, 21 March 77

Shaw & Co
(20) W. S. Whitehead
Collector

Submitted for the orders of Government with request that steps may be taken to procure the withdrawal of the objection to the passage of coolies carrying silt through the Regimental Lines. The testimony of the Sanitary Commissioner as to the harmlessness of the operation seems to the Board conclusive.
2. The Collis attention is drawn to the fact that his letter of 21 March was not despatched till the 28th.

(Encopy of Extract)

W. S. Whitehead

To the Adm. Secy. to Govt. of India
Government of India
Department of Public Works

Substantially for
 notice of Govt. is at hand
 Collect of the District
 up. additional of the District
 to carrying with them the
 Burroughs back through
 the lines made by the
 Commission of the War

Ex. 1000

82nd April 1877.

Ex. 1000

With order

Handing of the
 Board of the Board

7. 10. 1877

Dec. 1877

Ch. 1345

His Grace the Governor in Council considers that the removal of the large accumulation of silt on the edge of the Suriazunta Bank and between it and the N. S. Lines is necessary, and accordingly directs its immediate removal to the low ground between the Lines and the Luta Channel. In order to remove it the labourers employed on the work must pass through the Lines and the Master will therefore see that special attention is paid to cleaning up the streets between the rows of huts every evening after the work is over, and to the prevention of the coolies straggling about in the Lines while the work is in progress.

And copy to the O. D. 20 Dec
 25 P. C. 7/14 April 77 or before
 7 to the Collector North District
 7 to the Military Dept of
 5 to the Finance Dept
 2 to the B. & W. Dept

5 June 1877